

**Sierra Nevada Conservancy Grant Program
Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control,
River and Coastal Protection Act of 2006 (Proposition 84)**

Subregion: NORTH-CENTRAL **County:** PLUMAS

Applicant: SIERRA VALLEY RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Project Title: SIERRA VALLEY RCD WATERSHED OUTREACH EVENT PROPOSAL –
SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE WORKING WITH WATER WORKSHOP

Reference Number: SNC 070311

PROJECT SCOPE

The Sustainable Agriculture Workshop portion of this proposal will expand the knowledge of farmers and ranchers in the Sierra Valley to protect the water quality and supply of the Feather River watershed through more sustainable agricultural practices. The Workshop will provide a forum where local food producers in the Sierra Valley watershed can learn how to make their farms and ranches more sustainable. The workshop will focus on water issues, particularly water management and conservation, water quality monitoring, and water quality improvement. The spread of Perennial Pepperweed will be addressed as well. Topic discussions will be led by regional experts, academics, and practitioners. All interested parties can attend, and local, state, and organizational officials are encouraged to attend through complimentary admissions. This is the third year for the event. There were 70 participants last year (up from 40 the first year) and more are hoped for in 2008. Activities for the successful completion of the project include:

- Coordinate involvement of partnering organizations and agencies;
- Enlist a pool of volunteer staff;
- Arrange booking and accommodations for visiting experts;
- Arrangements for facilities and workshop materials;
- Coordinate site transportation arrangements;
- Advertise and publicize the event to generate interest and participation.

PROJECT SCHEDULE

DETAILED PROJECT DELIVERABLES	TIMELINE
Form event steering committee	June 2008
Hold community meeting to enlist participants and volunteers	July 2008
Identify and contract experts to lead education workshops	July 2008
Develop program	July – Aug. 2008
Arrange facilities and transportation	July – Aug. 2008
Advertise event	July – Aug. 2008
Hold Sustainable Agriculture event	Sept. 2008
Final Report/Final Payment Request	October 2008

PROJECT COSTS

PROJECT BUDGET CATEGORIES	TOTAL SNC FUNDING
Operations (utilities, advertising, postage, facility rental, speaker logistics)	3,490
Materials and supplies (materials, printing, signage)	1,255
Contracts (includes \$3,000 for coordinator, \$500 for speaker fees)	3,700
GRAND TOTAL	\$ 8,445

Letters of Support:

- None

Recommendation:

Staff recommends funding only the Sustainable Agriculture Workshop portion of the larger proposal, in the amount of \$8,445. While the other portion of the proposal, the annual “Barns, Birds & Barbeque” is an outstanding event, there appears to be strong local support that should sustain it. The BBB is also a more costly event and has a much broader context than watershed issues. The Sustainable Agriculture Workshop has a stronger water focus, and the potential for more immediate and substantial benefits to water quality and supply in line with Proposition 84.

Project Summary

Provide a summary (one-page maximum) that describes key elements of the project and states the total project cost.

Please type here: SNC 070311 Sierra Valley RCD Watershed Outreach Event Proposal

The Sierra Valley Resource Conservation District (SVRCD) proposes a project to plan and implement two working landscape outreach events.

The 3rd “Barns, Birds & Barbeque” (BBB) event will bring non-farm families and individuals to working farms, ranches and forest lands for presentations, demonstrations and on-site visits to project sites. This successful event continues with a theme that emphasizes watershed management challenges that affect, and link together, the communities of the Feather River Watershed. “BBB” has given the Sierra Valley community a venue to reach out to non-farm families with an introduction to the rewards – and challenges – of maintaining working landscapes so that basic needs for all can be provided. These challenges, like the communities served, change over time and require frequent revisitation so that all stakeholders can better understand and support one another.

Once again, field tours to working farms and ranches will be featured along with workshops, tours and exhibits. Special emphasis will be placed on management problems – especially noxious weeds – that bear on water quality and water quantity. Related themes will deal with: Restoration objectives, achievements, and opportunities in the watershed; How those interrelate with other resource issues in working and wildland landscapes; and how these relate to town and urban communities. Through this event, non-farm individuals and families will meet in the field with farmers, ranchers and foresters to become better informed about water issues facing agriculture, and how those issues are tie together producers and consumers of agricultural products

The annual Sustainable Agriculture workshop will reach out to dozens of local producers to provide a forum for learning about how to make the watershed's farms and ranches more sustainable. This year's event will emphasize water issues, especially water management & conservation, water quality monitoring, and water quality improvement. The SA workshop will provide a forum for producers to learn about new technologies and methods to make better use of water.

Note that either of these two events can be funded and operated as stand-alone projects. They are presented together here under one budget and one proposal to minimize administrative tasks such as billing and reporting.

Grant Request Line Items: Budget: Personnel - no expense; Operating Expenses - \$12,325.00; Materials & Supplies - \$8,600.00; Contract Services \$6,530.00;

Total sum requested: \$27,455.00 (50.5%). In-kind Support: \$10,088.00 (18.5%).
Cash Matching Funds & Income: \$16,870.00 (30.0%) Total Project Value: \$54,413.00
(100%).